

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (New): A dual leading-shoe drum brake system comprising:

- a backing plate defining a vertical and horizontal axis;
- an upper anchor block secured to an upper portion of the backing plate and a lower anchor block secured to a lower portion of the backing plate;
- a first and a second actuating lever located on opposite sides of the vertical axis, the first and second actuating lever being configured to selectively engage the lower anchor block;
- a first brake shoe pivotally mounted to the first actuating lever approximately at the midpoint of the shoe and a second brake shoe pivotally mounted to the second actuating lever approximately at the midpoint of the shoe, wherein mounting of the first and second brake shoes to the first and second levers, respectively, is achieved through a first and second pivotal connection;
- an actuator located on the upper portion of the backing plate, the actuator engaging an upper end of the first and second actuating lever and being configured to apply a force thereto, wherein upon application of force to the upper ends of the actuator levers rotate to cause an applied force to the first and second brake shoes through the first and second pivotal connection; and
- an automatic adjustment device engaging the upper ends of the first and second actuating arms, the automatic adjustment device being configured to adjust the position of the actuator arms for compensating for brake shoes wear,
- wherein during application of the drum brake system the first and second actuating lever floats with respect to the backing plate.

Claim 16 (New): The assembly of claim 15, wherein during application of the drum brake system the first and second brake shoes floats with respect to the backing plate.

Claim 17 (New): The assembly of claim 15, further comprising a parking brake actuator pivotally mounted to one of the first or second actuating arm and engaging the automatic adjustment device, wherein upon application of the parking brake a

force is applied to the other of said first or second actuating arm to cause an applied force to the first and second brake shoes through the pivotal connection.

Claim 18 (New): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the upper and lower anchor blocks are located along the vertical axis formed through the central portion of the backing plate.

Claim 19 (New): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the first brake shoe engages the upper anchor block when braking is applied in a first rotational direction and engages the lower anchor block when braking is applied in a second rotation direction opposite the first rotational direction

Claim 20 (New): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the second brake shoe engages the lower anchor block when braking is applied in a first rotational direction and engages the upper anchor block when braking is applied in a second rotation direction opposite the first rotational direction.

Claim 21 (New): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the first and second actuating levers are arranged symmetrically with respect to the vertical axis of the backing plate.

Claim 22 (New): The assembly of claim 21, wherein the first and second actuating levers are substantially identical to each other.

Claim 23 (New): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the pivotal mounting of the actuating lever to the brake shoe comprise a pin extending through an opening formed through both the actuating lever and brake shoe.

Claim 24 (New): The assembly of claim 15, further comprising a first spring for connecting the lower portion of the first and second brake shoes for maintaining contact of the first and second brake shoes against the surface of the lower actuating block.

Claim 25 (New): The assembly of claim 15, further comprising a second spring for connecting the upper portion of the first and second actuating levers for maintaining contact of the first and second actuating arms against engagement features of the automatic adjuster.

Claim 26 (New): A dual leading-shoe drum brake system comprising:

- a backing plate defining a vertical and horizontal axis;
- an upper anchor block secured to an upper portion of the backing plate and a lower anchor block secured to a lower portion of the backing plate, the upper and lower anchor blocks are located along the vertical axis formed through the central portion of the backing plate;
- a first and a second actuating lever located on opposite sides of the vertical axis, the first and second actuating lever being configured to selectively engage the lower anchor block;
- a first brake shoe pivotally mounted to the first actuating lever approximately at the midpoint of the shoe and a second brake shoe pivotally mounted to the second actuating lever approximately at the midpoint of the shoe, wherein mounting of the first and second brake shoes to the first and second levers, respectively, is achieved through a first and second pivotal connection comprising a pin extending through an opening formed through both the actuating lever and brake shoe;
- an actuator located on the upper portion of the backing plate, the actuator engaging an upper end of the first and second actuating lever and being configured to apply a force thereto, wherein upon application of force to the upper ends of the actuator levers rotate to cause an applied force to the first and second brake shoes through the first and second pivotal connection;
- an automatic adjustment device engaging the upper ends of the first and second actuating arms, the automatic adjustment device being configured to adjust the position of the actuator arms for compensating for brake shoes wear;
- a parking brake actuator pivotally mounted to one of the first or second actuating arm and engaging the automatic adjustment device, wherein upon application of the parking brake a force is applied to the other of said first or second actuating arm to cause an applied force to the first and second brake shoes through the pivotal connection;

a first spring for connecting the lower portion of the first and second brake shoes for maintaining contact of the first and second brake shoes against the surface of the lower actuating block;

a second spring for connecting the upper portion of the first and second actuating levers for maintaining contact of the first and second actuating arms against engagement features of the automatic adjuster; and

wherein during application of the drum brake system the first and second actuating lever and the first and second brake shoe floats with respect to the backing plate.